



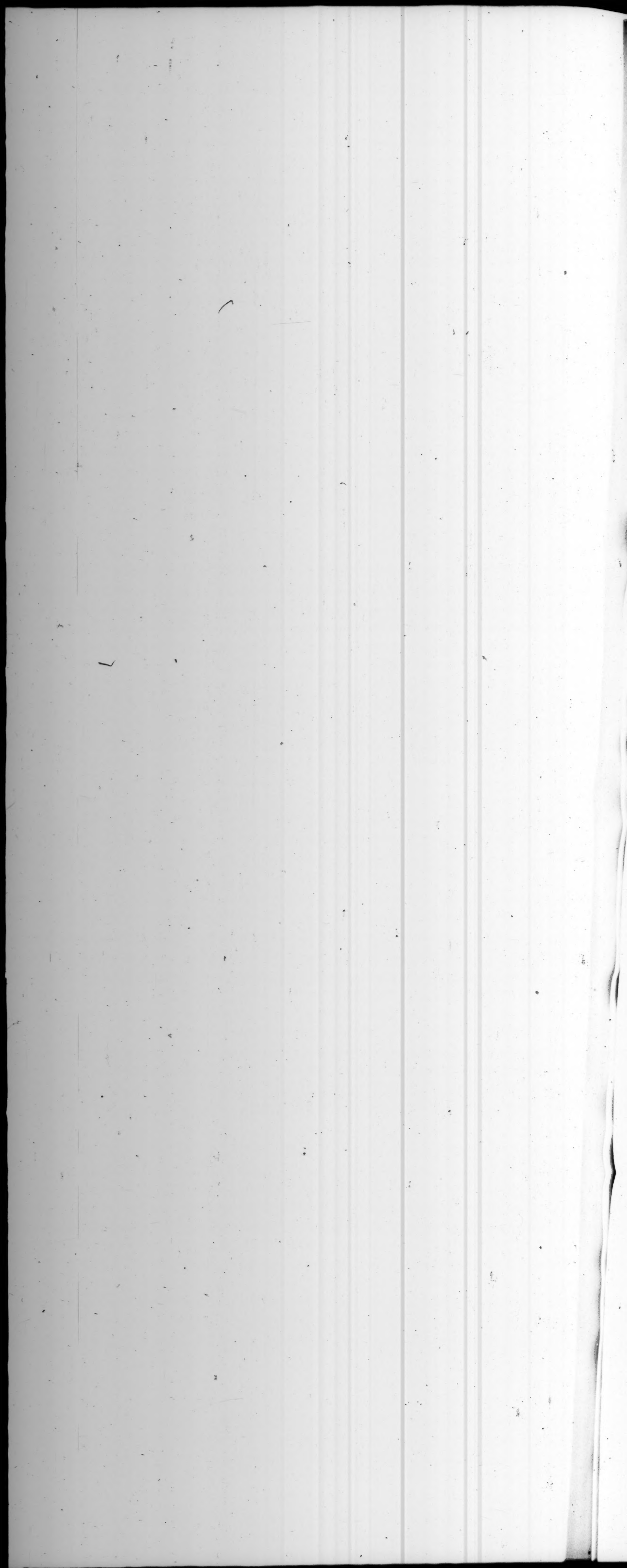
¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation concerning Tobacco.



Hereas Our Commons, assembled in Our last Sessions of Parliament, became humble Petitioners unto Us, That for many waightie reasons, much concerning the Welfare of our Kingdome, and the Trade thereof, we would by Our Royall power utterly prohibite the vse of all forreigne Tobacco, which is not of the growth of our owne Dominions; And whereas we haue vpon all occasions made knowen Our dislike, we haue euer had of the vse of Tobacco in generall, as tending to the corruption both of the health and manners of our people, and to that purpose haue at seuerall times heretofore prohibited the planting of Tobacco, both in England and Wales, as utterly vnfit, in respect of the Climate, to cherish the same for any medicinall vse, (which is the onely good to bee approoued in it;) And at other times haue also prohibited the disorderly trading for Tobacco, into the parts beyond the Seas, as by Our seuerall Proclamations, published to that purpose, it may appeare. Neuerthelesse, because we haue bene earnestly and often importuned by many of our louing Subjects, Planters and Aduenturers in Virginia, and the Sommer Islands, and lately by our Commissioners for Virginia, that wee would bee pleased to take into our Royall care that part of our Dominions, by our Royall authoritie, and by the industry of our loyall Subjects, added to the rest of our Empire, for the propagation of Christian Religion, and the ease and benefite of this populous Realme, and to consider, that those Colonies and Plantations, are yet but in their infancie, and cannot be brought to maturitie and perfection, vnlesse we will bee pleased for a time to tolerate vnto them the planting and venting of the Tobacco, which is, and shall be of the growth of those Colonies and Plantations; we, taking into our Princely consideration these, and many other important reasons of State, haue bene graciously pleased to condescend to the desires and humble petitions of our louing Subjects in this behalfe.

And therefore wee doe by these presents straitly charge and command, That no person whatsoever, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, doe at any time hereafter, import, or cause to be imported from any part beyond the Seas, or out of our Kingdome of Scotland, into this our Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, or into our Realme of Ireland, any Tobacco, which is not of the proper growth of the Plantations of Virginia, and the Sommer Islands, or one of them, vpon paine of forfeiture vnto Us of all such Tobacco so to be imported, contrary to the true meaning of these presents, in whose hands soeuer the same shall bee found, and vpon such further paines and penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of these our Realmes, or by the severity or censure of our Court of Starre-chamber, in either of those Kingdomes respectiue, may be inflicted vpon the offenders, for contempt of this our Royall command, and to be reputed and taken as enemies to our proceedings, and to those Plantations which so much concerne our Honour, and the honour and profit of these our King-





domies. And we further will and command, vpon the penalties aforesaid, that from hencefoorth, no person or persons whatsoever, presume to sow, set, or plant, or cause, or permit, or suffer to be sowed, set, or planted, in any of his or their grounds, any Tobacco whatsoever, within these Our Realmes of England, or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, or any Isles or places belonging thereto, or permit, or suffer any old stocke, plant, or roote of Tobacco formerly set, sowed, or planted, there to continue, nor plucked by and utterly destroyed, contrary to the tenour and true meaning of a former Proclamation, made and published by Us to that purpose, bearing date the thirtieth day of December, in the seuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England.

And we further straitly charge and command, vpon the paines and penalties aforesaid, That no person whatsoever, presume to buy, or sell any Tobacco, which from hencefoorth shall be imported, or brought from any the parts beyond the Seas, or from Our Realme of Scotland, which is not, or shall not be of the proper growth of the Colonies aforesaid, of Virginia, and the Sommer Islands, or one of them. And because we vnderstand, that some, who intend their owne priuate, more then the publique, conceiuing it to bee probable, that we would grant the petition of Our Commons in Parliament, to preuent the effect thereof, haue lately imported secretly, and by stealth, great quantities of forreigne Tobacco, for which they haue payd no Subsidie, or other duety vnto Us; we further will and command, vnder the paines and penalties aforesaid, that no person whatsoever, from, and after the five and twentieth day of March, now next ensuing, presume to sell, or offer, or put to sale within these Our Realmes or Dominion, any Tobacco, which hath been formerly imported into this Realme, which is not of the proper growth of the Colonies, or Plantations aforesaid, or one of them, nor that any person whatsoever, willingly and knowingly, take, or vse any Tobacco, from, and after the first day of May, now next ensuing, which is not, or shall not be of the proper growth of the said Colonies, or Plantations, or one of them. Yet, because the said forreigne Tobacco may not lie on the hands of the owners thereof, we are graciously pleased, that at any time, within forty dayes after the said five and twentieth day of March, such forreigne Tobacco may be freely exported by any person whatsoever, without paying any Subsidie or other duety for the same. And because no man shall pretend ignorance, and therby endeuour to excuse his offence in any of the premisses, we doe further charge and command, and doe hereby signifie and declare Our Will and pleasure to be, that all and euery person and persons, Merchant or other, who vseth to sell, or hath any purpose to sell Tobacco, who haue in his, or their hands, custodie or possession, or in the hands, custody or possession of any other by their deliuey, or to their vse, any Tobacco heretofore imported into this Our Realme, or planted, set, or sowed within this Realme, shall before the twentieth day of October, now next comming, bring the same into Our Custome house, within Our Citie of London, if such Tobacco be within five miles of Our said Citie, or if such Tobacco be in any other Citie, Towne, or place, within this Our Realme of England, or Dominion of Wales, or Realme of Ireland, shall bring the same to the Towne-house, or other fit place, which shall be to that purpose appointed by Us, in that Citie or Corporate Towne, neerest vnto which the said Tobacco shall bee, and shall before the first day of December, now next comming, there require and cause the same to be marked and sealed by such person or persons, and with such Seale and Marke, as we shall thereunto assigne or appoint for that purpose, without giuing any fee or allowance for the said Seale or Marke, and whatsoever Tobacco shall not be sealed or marked, as aforesaid, within the seuerall times aforesaid, shall be confiscated & forfeited vnto Us for such their default and contempt. And for the auoiding of all deceit and abuse in disguising of forreigne Tobacco, or mingling the same with the Tobacco of Virginia or the Sommer Islands, thereby to defraud the true intent of these presents, we further straitly charge & command, vnder the paines and penalties aforesaid, That no person, who is, or shall be a seller of Tobacco, shall haue, or keepe ready cut, aboue the quantity of one pound of Tobacco at once, nor shall min-





gle any forreigne Tobacco, With any Tobacco of the growth of the Sommer Islands, or Virginia.

And wee straitly charge and command, that all the planters of Tobacco in the Colonies aforesaid, or any part thereof, shall make the same good and merchantable, and shall not presume to send ouer into this our Realme of England, any Tobacco, which shall not be good and merchantable, and well made by in rolle without stalkes, or other bad or corrupt stuffe, vpon paine of confiscation thereof, or so much thereof, as vpon due triall made, shall be found to be otherwise, to the intent that such of Our Subjects as shall desire to vse the same, may not be abused, or deceived therewith, to the impairing of their health. And to the intent that the Tobacco of the Colonies, and Plantations aforesaid, thus tolerated by Us, may be knowen and distinguished, from such as shall be secretly, and without warrant brought in by stealth; we doe likewise straightly charge and command, vpon the paines and penalties aforesaid, That all such Tobacco, as shall be brought from the Colonies aforesaid, shall be all brought and landed at the Key of Our Custome-house, in Our Citie of London, and not elsewhere, in any of Our Realmes or Dominions, and shall be there registred, and shall not be remooued from Our said Custome-house, vntill it shall bee there first tried, sealed, and marked, by such person or persons, & with such Seale or Marke, as we shall thereunto assigne and appoint, such Seale or Marke to be set thereto, without Fee, or other reward whatsoeuer. And we doe further straitly charge and command, vpon the paines and penalties aforesaid, That all owners of ships, be carefull to imploy such Masters in their ships, or other vessels, from whom they will take good caution not to offend in the importation of any Tobacco, contrary to this Our Royall pleasure. And we doe further signifie and declare by these presents, that we wil require an exact accompt of the Master of euery ship, or other vessel, that hee shall make such diligent and carefull search, ouer the Mariners and passengers in his ship, or other vessel, that none of them shall conueigh ouer into these Our Realmes of England, or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, or into any Port, Hauen, Creeke, or other parts thereof, any Tobacco to bee imported, contrary to the true intent and meaning of these presents: And that Our Customers, or their deputies, in euery Port of these Our Realmes of England, and Ireland, shall, vpon oath, examine euery Master of a ship, or other vessel, or other Officers and Mariners in the said ship, or vessel, whether they haue made search in the said ship or vessel, for Tobacco, and whether any Tobacco bee in the said ship or vessel, to their knowledge, and whether any Tobacco were laden in the said ship or vessel, and bee taken out thereof, and what is become of the same: And if any Master of a ship, or other vessel, shall wilfully, or negligently permit, or suffer any Tobacco to be imported, or shall otherwise offend, contrary to these presents, euery such Master (because it is in his power to preuent the same) shall also be answerable vnto Us for his contempt herein, and shall be subiect, & lyable to all the paines and penalties aforesaid, aswell as if he himselfe had actually and purposely committed the said offence. And whereas we are informed, that some traders in Tobacco, doe vse to import Tobacco in forreigne Bottomes; wee strictly charge and command, that no person whatsoeuer, either Stranger, Denizen, or naturall borne Subiect, presume to import any Tobacco whatsoeuer in any forreigne Bottome, at any time hereafter, vpon paine of confiscation, not onely of the said Tobacco, but also of the ship, or vessel, wherein the same is so imported, and vpon the other paines and penalties aforesaid.

And for the better execution of Our pleasure herein, wee doe hereby command all and singuler Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, and other Officers, attending in all and euery the Ports, Creekes, or places of lading or unlading, for the taking, collecting, or receiuing of any of Our Customs, Subsidies, or Duties, to take notice of this Our pleasure: And we do hereby command, and giue power and authoritie vnto them, and euery of them, from time to time, aswell to search any Shippe, or other vessel, or Bottome, riding, or lying within any Port, Hauen, or Creeke, within their severall charge of attendance, for all Tobacco imported, contrary to the intent of this Our Royall





Proclamation; and the same being found, to seize and take to our use, and also to take notice of the names, and apprehend the bringers in and buyers of the same, to the end they may receive condigne punishment for their offences, upon paine, that every of the said Officers, which shall bee found negligent, remisse or corrupt therein, shall lose his place and entertainment, and undergoe such paines and penalties, as by our Lawes, or by the censure of our said Court of Starre-chamber, may be inflicted upon them for the same.

And we doe likewise, will, ordaine, and appoint, that it shall and may bee lawfull, for such person or persons, as shall be therunto authorized and appointed, by him, or themselves, or his, or their Deputy or Deputies, with a lawfull Officer to search any shippe, or other vessell, and to enter into any shoppe, house, seller, warehouse, or other suspected places, at lawfull and convenient times, and there to search, discover, and find out any Tobacco, imported, vttered, sold, or vnted, or to be vttered, sold, or vnted, not marked or sealed, as aforesaid, contrary to the true meaning hereof, and all such Tobacco so found, to seize, take away, and dispose of, and the owners thereof, or in whose custody the same shall be found, to informe and complaine of, to the end they may receive punishment, according to our pleasure before herein declared.

And further, we doe by these presents, will and require all and singular Maiors, Sherriffes, Iustices of Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, and all other our Officers and ministers whatsoever, That they, and every of them, in their severall places and Offices, be diligent and attendant in the execution of this our Proclamation, and also aiding and assisting unto such person and persons, and his and their Deputies and Assignes, as we shall so, as aforesaid, authorize and appoint, aswell in any search for discovery of any act or acts to be performed contrary to the intent of these presents, as otherwise, in the doing or executing of any matter or thing, for the accomplishment of this our Royall command. And further, our Will and pleasure is, and we doe hereby charge and command our Attourney generall, for the time being, to informe against such persons in our Court of Starre-chamber, from time to time, whose contempt and disobedience against this our Royall command, shall merit the censure of that Court, and to prosecute every such information speedily & effectually, untill the same shall be brought to sentence. And our pleasure and command is, that all the Tobacco, which upon any seizure shall become forfeited, shall be brought to our Custome-house, next adioyning to the Port, or place where the same shall be seized, where the seizor thereof shall deliver the same to our use, and the same shall be forthwith burnt, consumed and destroyed; but the offendor, before hee be discharged, shall pay to the party, who seized the said Tobacco, the one halfe of the true value thereof: And that such person or persons, whom we shall appoint, specially by our Privy Seale, to take care and charge of the execution of our pleasure in the premises, shall have the one halfe of all the Fines, to be imposed upon every offendor against this our Proclamation, for their encouragement to be diligent and faithfull, in, and about the the performance of that service, we shall so commit unto them.

Given at Our Honour of Hampton Court, the nine and twentieth day of September, in the two & twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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